



### THE MYSTERY THAT WAS "JEFF"

There are some things so strange they don't fit into any known category—neither fish, fowl, human nor unhuman. One such thing was "Jeff".

The story of this creature is so bizarre that many people will find it impossible to credit. Nevertheless, it is abundantly documented. It was investigated by numerous reporters and psychical researchers, including Dr Nandor Fodor, a noted psychoanalyst, R. S. Lambert of the British

Broadcasting Corporation, and famed ghost-hunter Harry Price.

The story began in the fall of 1931 on the Isle of Man. James T. Irving and his family caught glimpses of a strange animal skulking around their yard. It was described as about the size of a full-grown rat with a flat snout and a small yellow face.

Soon the Irvings became aware that the creature had moved into the house with them. They heard its furtive, rustling movements and found traces of half-eaten food the intruder had pilfered.

Then—and this was a very queer development—the family heard the creature apparently mimicking them in a peculiar imitation of human speech. Over a period of months it acquired the ability to talk in an odd, high-pitched voice. Before long, swore the family, the thing was carrying on conversations with them.

Yes, the story takes some believing thus far. But it gets worse.

The animal, or whatever it was—it never showed itself but lurked in hiding places in the walls from which it conversed with the family—called itself "Jeff".

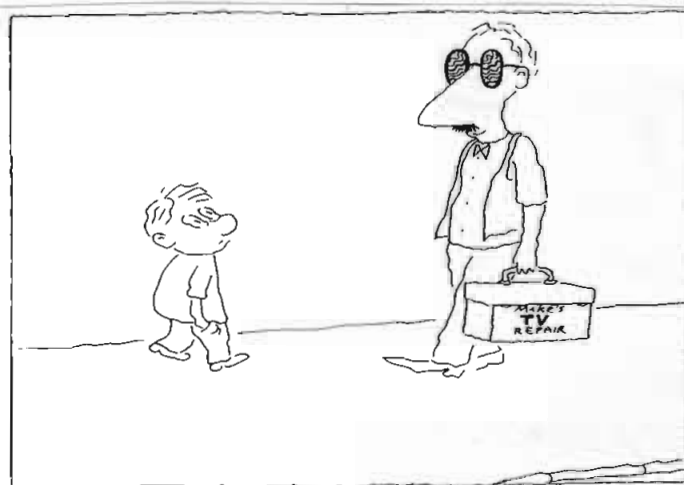
It addressed each member of the Irving family by his or her first name. Irving was "Jim", his wife "Maggie", and their teenage daughter "Voirrey".

Jeff, according to the Irvings, did extraordinary things besides talking. They began finding freshly-killed rabbits on their kitchen floor, gifts from their mysterious guest. But the rabbits had been strangled, not killed by teeth as a mongoose or weasel (as some thought Jeff to be) would have done. More than 50 rabbits were left in this way.

If the Irvings alone had vouched for Jeff's existence, one might say that it was all a practical joke, or that the whole family was mad. But others encountered Jeff, too.

Jeff hated strangers and when they came to the house to try to make his acquaintance, as many did, he often threw things at them—crockery, or on one occasion a large iron bolt.

As time passed, Jeff branched out linguistically and was heard uttering phrases in what appeared to be German and Russian.



Sam Miller

R. S. Lambert, a BBC producer, spent a week with the Irvings. He went back to London and wrote a book about his experiences with the talking mongoose, or whatever it was. When the book appeared, Lambert's superior publicly branded him either a liar or a madman. Lambert sued in court. The court believed his story and awarded him damages equal to \$35,000, a very substantial sum in those days.

Other experienced investigators also probed the mystery of Jeff and came away persuaded that he or it represented an insoluble riddle.

Once, on demand, Jeff left his footprints, or pawprints, in several pieces of soft wax, and these were pronounced unidentifiable by a zoologist. They belonged to no known animal.

Jeff stayed with the Irvings four years. Then he vanished, as mysteriously as he had come.

On one occasion, when James Irving demanded to know who or what Jeff really was, the creature, speaking from his usual habitat in the shadows, replied: "I know what I am but I won't tell you. I'm a freak. I've hands and feet. If you saw me you would be petrified."

And then Jeff added these tantalising words: "I'm a ghost in the form of a weasel..."

(Source: *Toronto Sun*, 8 September 1974)

## SHANGHAI SURPRISE!

Something very weird appeared in the skies over Shanghai, China's largest city, on Tuesday 2 March 1993. The *Xinmin Evening News* reported that at 7.05 pm an orange-red man-shaped object appeared and "filled the sky" (which makes it sound pretty big).

The sky-hanging man-like apparition alternately moved and stopped for 20 minutes and then its head began to emit red light or red flashes, and its body glowed with a yellow aura as it sent out green tendrils.

Then, "slowly the man transformed himself into a giant mushroom which hung in the north-eastern corner of the sky, then the mushroom shrank until it became the size of a soybean and then disappeared"...apparently at about 8.15 pm.

A quarter of the world's population live in China, so they're bound to have their fair share of strange tales, though often lacking in details. This is all we have on this one.

(Source: *Fortean Times*, #70, Aug-Sept 1993; *Rocky Mountain News*, 5 March 1993, *Straits Times*, 6 March 1993)

## LITTLE PEOPLE LOST & FOUND

SEATTLE — The US television show, *Unsolved Mysteries*, is setting out to prove the native American Crow and Shoshone legends of the existence of a mythical tribe of 'Little People', believed to have had superhuman powers.

However, Crow tribe members are upset because the programme will feature beings who often assisted them with powerful medicine.

Public relations officer for the tribe, Burton Pretty On Top, said he felt uneasy with the idea that the Little People would be exploited on national television. He said that tribal members knew of sites where skeletal remains lay, but kept the details secret for fear of invasion by scavengers and the media.

"I'm not too sure whether I like that idea. We have respect for the Little People. If our beliefs are brought out and put on national TV, I'm not sure of the amount of sensitivity that will be used," said Mr Pretty On Top.

It is said there is one cave in the Big Horn Mountains in Montana which supposedly is furnished in small-scale proportions and is considered to be a home of the Little People.

Apparently the TV programme is drawing much evidence from a 1988 book, *Ghosts of the Old West*, by Earl Murray, of Laurel, Montana, also a consultant on the filming. Murray claims, however, that the programme will not lack sensitivity, and that it was only going to present information from the historical aspect, and appeal for a mummy that has been missing for nearly a quarter of a century.

A small mummy had been found by Wyoming miners in 1932 in the Pedro mountains.

The miners found the 36 - 45 cm mummified body when they

blasted open a tunnel while looking for gold. The body was preserved in a sitting position with its legs crossed and arms crossed on its chest.

Taken from the cave, the mummy has changed hands so many times its whereabouts are unknown, although it was last heard of in the hands of a doctor in Florida.

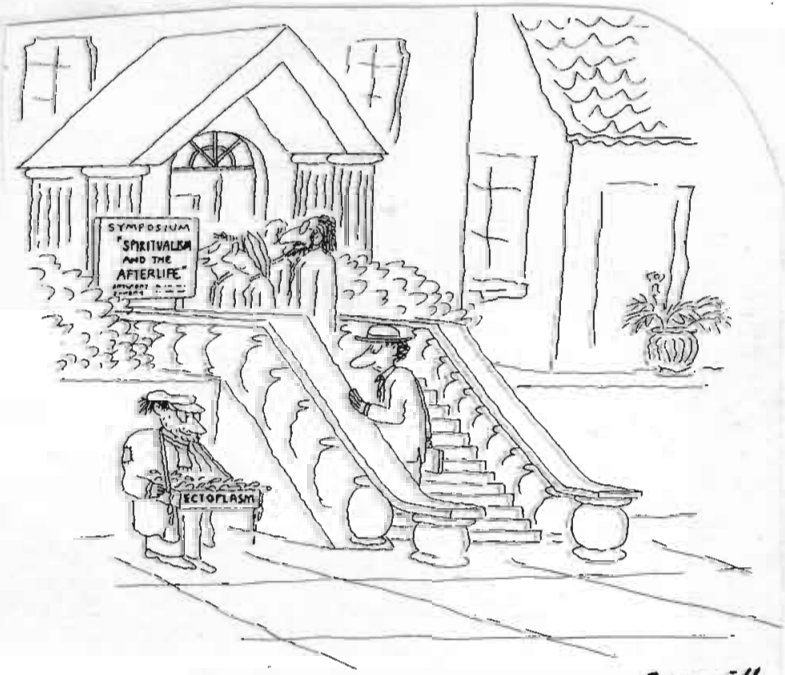
At one stage it was in possession of a used-car dealer named Ivan Goodman, who encased the mummy and displayed it in his office. He eventually was talked into allowing scientists to study the body.

There was disagreement about the mummy's authenticity. Some scientists believed it was merely the preserved body of a child. Others said calcification deposits in the bones indicated it was the body of a juvenile or an adult in its later years. Still others believe bone elongation was fully developed when the mummy was interred, thus it was an adult. The argument remained unresolved.

The mummy has been recreated for *Unsolved Mysteries* from pictures in the archives of the Chicago Field Museum of Natural History.

Crow spokesman Mr Pretty On Top said tribe members knew of the mummy's presence in the remote cave but chose not to bother it. He said all the people who came into possession of the mummy died mysteriously or prematurely. No evidence was given, however, to support this assertion.

(Source: *Sydney Telegraph Mirror*, 5 October 1993)



Sumner

# THE TWILIGHT ZONE

## GLOW-IN-THE-DARK GLIDER

"Was anyone skywatching on Friday last, September 4, around 9.30 pm, and did they see anything unusual?"

A friend called to see me at about 9.20 pm, asking if we had seen the flashing lights in the sky. Going into the garden, we watched the sky to see if the two lights would reappear. Suddenly I noticed in the east a pale golden light which came silently towards us, and drew our friend's attention to it. We watched, fascinated, as it continued to glide in our direction, with a constant, steady glow—a huge bird!

As it passed directly over our heads, at a height I would say of 100 feet, we quite clearly saw the great wings and body of what appeared to be a glowing bird, though there was no wing movement as far as we could make out.

The nearest shape I could think of was that of an owl, but the size at that distance would have far surpassed any owl. And why was it glowing all over as it continued on its path until out of sight going west? The wings were very wide and remained outspread in the whole of the time we watched it.

The sky was quite clear and stars fully visible, though the moon had some cloud across it.

What on earth (or in heaven) was the beautiful, fascinating glowing bird? In over 20 years of skywatching, I have never seen anything like it. Did anyone else see what we saw?

Marilyn Preston Evans

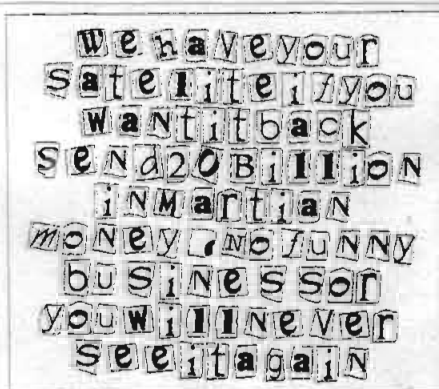
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(Source: *BUFORA UFO Newsfile* #10, October 1992, *Western Morning News*, 10 September 1992)

## YOUR MONEY OR YOUR SATELLITE!

*New Scientist* recently reported that NASA could have a new lead in its search for the missing Mars Observer, the probe poised to enter Martian orbit to commence its mapping mission when its radio transmitter ceased functioning last August.

A ransom note has been received by scientists at the agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. We reproduce this below for your interest.



According to NASA spokeswoman Paula Clegget-Haleim, however, the Martian ransom hypothesis is not among those under consideration by the independent investigating panel.

Still, we're not so convinced there's no funny business going on!  
(Source: *New Scientist*, 25 September 1993)

## THE CURSE OF HISTORY

Archaeologists have discovered a pair of his-and-her curses, the oldest ever found in Egypt and perhaps in the world. They were located in a pharaonic cemetery, in distant view of the Giza pyramids, which contains tombs and artefacts belonging to ancient overseers, artisans and workers.

Antiquities inspector Mansour Bauriak has headed more than three years of excavations in the ancient graveyard. So far, only one among 23 large tombs and 600 smaller burials contained a curse. However, there was an aura of the unusual even as the excavators approached the still-buried tomb.

"From the first moment we found this tomb, there was a strange feeling," Mr Bauriak said. "The tomb owner changed the tomb's design several times. Perhaps he was experimenting with different ways to outsmart robbers."

The first of the main curses was found just to the left of the tomb's entrance. The hieroglyphs read: "To all people, the goddess Hathor will strike you twice if you enter the tomb or do it harm."

The burial chamber husband-and-wife curses were inside, at the rear. His curse summons crocodiles, lions and hippopotami to eat anyone who dares violate the tomb.

Her curse summons the same animal spirits but adds two more—scorpions and snakes—to the warning.

"I think this shows that ladies in ancient Egypt, as in modern times, seek more revenge than men," said Mr Zahi Hawass, the chief antiquities official in charge of the excavation.

The curses were designed to protect the afterlife of an official, Pet-et-ty, who served the pyramid-building pharaohs of Giza, and his wife Nesey-seker. The tomb had not been entered for 4,600 years—until last October.

Since then, according to Mr Bauriak, there has been trouble surrounding the excavation site. "When anything bad happens, we just blame it on the curse," he said. Some of the strange coincidences include:

- an antiquities inspector working at the tomb had to abandon his home after the major earthquake struck south of the pyramids on 12 October 1992;
- an elderly photographer who has spent decades photographing tombs was injured when his ladder collapsed into a chamber of Pet-et-ty's tomb;
- a small train carrying debris from the tomb derailed;



• Zawi Hawass suffered a near-fatal heart attack.

While colleagues were quick to blame this on the curses, Hawass is sceptical: "I think it was overwork." He said that the "curse of the pharaohs" has become a popular scapegoat over the past hundred years for an assortment of ills "from natural disasters to upset stomachs".

However, records show that many ancient Egyptians believed in the power of curses. This latest discovery from the Old Kingdom circa 2575 BC, shows how far back in Egyptian history curses were used. A thousand years later, curses were still commonplace in the land.

(Source: AP, *Sunshine Coast Daily*, 16 October 1993)

## PROPHECIES OF ORTHODOXY

Some prophecies from the Eastern Orthodox tradition have been drawn to our attention. They purportedly date to 1053, author anonymous, and have been translated from a number of Greek manuscripts reprinted from the originals.

These writings were first found in the monastery of Koutloumoussiou at the holy mountain of Mt Athos (also known as the Garden of the Virgin Mary), a peninsula located south-east of Thessaloniki in northern Greece.

These prophecies have also been unearthed in the Holy Monastery of Kozani, west of Thessaloniki, and in the Holy Monastery of St Naoum in Koritsa (Korcë), formerly a part of Greece but now

part of Albania.

Some of these prophecies are deemed to have come to pass already. Here is a selection:

- Great European war (World War I, commenced 28 July 1914).

- Germany is defeated; destruction of Russia and Austria (Germany defeated 11 November 1918; Russia torn apart by revolution; Austrian Empire in tatters).

- Turkey is defeated by the Greeks (Greek forces sent into Asia Minor in 1921 with the Turks in retreat).

- Turkey is strengthened by the western nations, Greece is defeated by the Turks (England, France, Italy pressured Greece to retreat; Turks victorious in 1922).

- Orthodox nation slaughtered (Turkey committed atrocities against Greeks in Asia Minor; 1-1/2 million refugees returned to mainland Greece in 1922-23).

- Invasion from a foreign nation from the Adriatic Sea. Woe to the inhabitants of the Earth; death is ready (Italy invaded Albania via the Adriatic on 7 April 1939 and made Albania part of the Italian empire; World War II was soon to commence).

- New European war (World War II, commenced 1 September 1939).

- Orthodox nations unite with Germany (Hitler obtained an oil and arms pact from Romania, May 1940; Romania, an orthodox nation, joined the Axis on 22 November 1940, followed by Bulgaria on 1 March 1941).

- France is defeated by Germany (German troops entered Paris 14 June 1940; France surrendered 22 June 1940).

- India revolts and separates itself from England (India gained independence from Britain on 15 August 1947).

- Victory to an orthodox nation, and a general slaughter of Turks (Muslims) by an orthodox nation (Bosnia and Hercegovina declared independence, sparking fighting by Serbians (Orthodox) against Bosnians (Muslims), 29 February 1992).

The following prophecies are considered to be as yet unfulfilled:

- Seven nations battle in Constantinople. Three days and nights of slaughter. Victory to the bigger nation against the six nations.

- Allied nations join the six nations against the seventh nation. Three days and nights of slaughter.

- The war is stopped by an angel (of God-Christ) and surrenders the city (Constantinople) to the Hellenes (Greeks).

- Latins concede to the infallible faith of Orthodoxy.

- The Orthodox faith spreads from east to west.

- The Pope has ceased, and a declaration of one Patriarch (Orthodox bishop) in all of Europe.

- For 55 years the end of affliction. The seventh year there will be no poverty and no banishment of people. People will be coming back to the exulted mother (church).

There are more details concerning these prophecies from other Orthodox saints that are yet to be translated.

Meanwhile, only time will tell just how accurate these prophecies are!